



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>TH</sup>, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

MEETING AT HELD REMOTELY AT GOTOWEBINAR.COM

Registration URL : <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3584921784926536973>

Webinar ID : 475-532-291

**YOU CAN ALSO DIAL IN USING YOUR PHONE:**

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**ACCESS CODE:** 484-532-358

*Meeting notes prepared by Malik Drayton*

**Recording of Virtual Meeting Can be found at the link here:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4181483808300479755>

**Commission Members in attendance:** Rachel Borgatti (Chair), Cristina Kennedy, David Turin, Aladdine Joroff, Newton Tedder, Titania Ng, Michael Fager

**Commission Members absent:**

**Others in Attendance:** None

**Staff:** Malik Drayton (Conservation Agent)

Rachel Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm followed by introductions.

**New Business:**

1. Remote Meeting Instructions / Introductions
2. COVID-19 Impacts on Open Space, Community Gardens and construction projects
  - a. Gardens can be open to one at a time
  - b. What about the Community Garden Clean ups? / Access?
  - c. Community Garden List Issues
  - d. Impacts to jurisdictional areas?
  - e. Conway Park vote by City Council to approve \$250,000
    1. 18 inches Artificial Turf vs. 36 inches

2. Should the commission weigh in with a memo?
3. What is the additional cost between Artificial Turf and Grass?
  1. 1.2 Million? Significant incremental cost
  2. Get material to the safest level → should be a Cost blind approach
4. Find additional funds
5. Looking for responsible party for contaminants
- f. Replanting in spring?
- g. Are plantings essential?
- h. What types of projects are essential?
- i. Letter for Foss Park
  1. Who was supposed to draft?
  2. Commissioner Fager – 7 Days

**Updates and discussion:**

3. Discussion of Conservation Commission Agenda and Operations for 2020
  - a. Preferences of operations discussed
  - b. Standard practice for drafting memos
    1. 2 weeks draft
    2. 1 Week comments
    3. Meeting Day review, edit, sign
  - c. Ways discussed on how to update files on the shared drive
    1. Google doc vs. Excel
    2. Open meeting law concerns
4. Ongoing Projects Review
  - a. Former Commissioner Wartella's projects are now assigned to Commissioner Ng
  - b. Former Commissioner Neuber's projects are now assigned to Commissioner Tedder
  - c. Conservation Agent Action Item Review
    1. Mystic River outfall maintenance
    2. MD to send link to the letters to the Commissioners
  - d. Commissioner Fager to contact Patrick Heron
  - e. Is Gene Crouch still the contact for VHB?
    1. VHB mailed Dan Driscoll
    2. Did Gene Crouch retire?
    3. MD to call Gene Crouch.
  - f. Commissioner Kennedy to check on projects with MD
  - g. MD to E-mail VHB to inquire new point of contact
5. Somervision 2040 Update
  - a. Comment period open
  - b. <https://www.somervision2040.com/>

6. Community Preservation Committee Update
  - a. Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19
7. Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting report
  - a. Commissioner Ng attended conference
  - b. Emphasis on Climate Change
  - c. Data sources / Online tools

**Other Business:**

1. Winter Hill Yacht Club
  1. Runoff into the river while washing boats
  2. Another letter to be sent?
  3. Washing in parking lot?
    1. Is this within Jurisdiction?
    2. It is within a resource area
    3. Are they using more than just water?
    4. Can they store their boats there?
    5. Certainly not good practice
    6. Commissioner Fager to look into it
  4. Needs a permit
    1. Industrial Stormwater permit
    2. Permit needed in order to discharge from the site
    3. Typical for boatyards and Marinas
  5. EPA MSGP – Multi Section General permit
2. City Nature Challenge
  1. Cancelled
  2. Commissioner Kennedy updates that people may still do it individually

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. January 28, 2020 [motion – Kennedy, second – Fager, vote: 7:0:0]
2. February 25, 2020 [motion – Fager, second – Kennedy, vote: 7:0:0]

**Adjourn:**

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:35 pm [motion – Fager, second – Turin, vote: 7:0:0].

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## Action Items:

### March

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to update Garden Map to include more street names (remove walkshed circles or put on interactive map so that people can zoom in and out).
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to add to ConCom Share drive: Project Specific Special conditions and all draft Letters
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to update ongoing project data
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to request update from Patrick Heron pertaining to a Comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Treatment Plan
- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to draft a letter pertaining to the comments period of the Draw 7 Park Meeting and all Commissioners are to review letter and send Comments to Agent Drayton.
- **Action:** Commissioner Ng to work with Commissioner Joroff on educational brochure formatting.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton after the reformatting is approved will have this put on the website.
- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to talk to Patrick and DCR asking for details of milfoil treatment plan and meeting summary from discussion of chemicals to be used.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to ensure Engineering completes the signs to add to Medford's outfall poles.
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### 2019

#### November:

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to ask Dr. Boukili for more information on how the financial tracking sheet should be utilized.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to get a copy of the signed Conservation Restriction and file appropriately
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to find more information on another pending Conservation Restriction at Winter Hill

#### October:

- **Action:** Send correspondence to DPW, Planning, Engineering, Capital Projects, and any other departments who might review construction or development projects. Remind them of Conservation Commission jurisdiction and requirements that must be followed when working near the river.

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**List of Meeting Documents** (located here K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2020\2020\_03\_31\_Meeting\_Documents):

- Agenda (2020\_03\_31\_Agenda.pdf)
- Ongoing Projects spreadsheet (Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)